



[ILA/ACRL Newsletter](#)

[Other Partnerships](#)

8-2015

ILA/ACRL Newsletter, vol. 25, no. 5, August-September 2015

Association of College and Research Libraries. Iowa Chapter

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/ilaacrL_newsletter



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Copyright © 2015 Iowa Library Association

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#). For more information please contact: lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 25, no. 5, August/September 2015

President's Piece



I have been exceedingly impressed with the Board this year, and I want to take a few characters in this newsletter to share why! With 3 months still to go in 2015, we have already:

- Submitted proposals to the ILA Board to create 2 new ILA-ACRL committees and disband 1 (see below for more details)
- Planned & executed a very successful spring conference, with over 100 people in attendance
- Added several library science students to committees
- Continued the information literacy assessment program (see Executive Summary)
- Strengthened our collaboration with Iowa Association of School Libraries and advocacy for our K-12 librarian colleagues as they teach our future students
- Offered a one-time Logo & Marketing Materials Design Award

And lots more!

You hopefully saw the recent email from the ILA office regarding the upcoming vote on proposed ILA-ACRL by-laws changes. Note that the electronic ballot will be sent via email, with a required password, when the voting period begins on Oct. 9. Here are the proposed changes for your review: <http://www.iowaacrl.org/content/bylaws/2015-changes>. (Separate ILA by-laws changes will also be voted on soon, so be sure to do both!)

So why is our Board proposing these changes? To directly respond to member needs and to ensure that we maintain valuable professional opportunities for our members. It really is amazing

everything the association provides for members at a membership price of just \$5 with paid ILA membership! Here are some comments from a few active members about what THEY value:

- “ILA/ACRL provides many opportunities to learn from colleagues across Iowa. On a more personal level, holding a leadership role has helped in my promotions and evaluations.” -Amy Paulus: Head, Access Services, University of Iowa Libraries
- “The connections I make with colleagues via ILA-ACRL keeps me engaged and moving forward!” -Rebecca Funke: Director of Library Resources, Des Moines Area Community College
- “ILA/ACRL helps connect me with other academic librarians. I believe that we can be better professionals if we are connected, sharing ideas, and collaborating.” -Jenny Parker: Reference and Instruction Librarian, Clarke University
- “ILA-ACRL is like a warm fire on a cool evening. You gather round, tell your stories, learn from others, and warm your heart in the company of wonderful people.” -Chris Neuhaus: Head, Learning & Outreach, University of Northern Iowa

What do you value about your own membership? Share your stories and encourage colleagues to join!

You might also consider serving on a committee. Most tasks don't take much time and can be done electronically. Contact Sara Scheib, Nominating Committee Chair (sara-scheib@uiowa.edu), to discuss your interests and where your skills might fit on a committee or in a leadership role in 2016. I've often seen librarians get involved the first time then, upon their term ending, ask how to continue because they have had such a valuable experience.

Questions or suggestions? Let any Board member know! And please join me in thanking all those listed on our website who are making our association work through their service.

Anne Marie Gruber
ILA-ACRL President, 2015

ILA/ACRL Officer Candidates

Beth McMahon (candidate for Vice President/President-Elect)

Biography: Beth McMahon is Director of Geisler Library at Central College. Before being appointed as Director in 2014, she worked as Reference and Instruction Librarian at Central College 2006-2014. She holds a B.A. in Women's Studies and Peace Studies from Antioch College, an M.A. in Women's Studies from The Ohio State University, and an M.L.I.S from Kent State University. Before moving to Iowa, she held professional library positions at Earlham

College (Indiana) and University of Dayton (Ohio). Beth has been a member of ILA/ACRL since arriving in Iowa, and has served the organization as Chair of the Spring Conference Committee in 2010 and 2011 and as a current member of the Newsletter Committee. She has completed the ACRL Institute for Information Literacy (2008), Harvard Institute for Higher Education's Library Leadership in the Digital Age program (2014), and ACRL's New Library Director Mentor Program (2015).

Statement: The vitality of our statewide academic library community is one of the things that has sustained me in my professional development since I arrived in Iowa almost a decade ago. I am continually impressed by the talent and energy present in this organization and across our state. I am honored and excited to accept nomination for the position of Vice President/President Elect of ILA/ACRL in hopes of making a useful contribution to sustaining and energizing our organization.

In considering a leadership role in ILA/ACRL I was inspired by a seemingly simple question: I know why I value ILA/ACRL and my membership in it, but what about you? As academic librarians, we work among many competing priorities and many demands for our time and attention. We work within institutions facing constriction of resources and organizational drift, and that sometimes fail to recognize the values of our profession. I am interested in engaging questions of how ILA/ACRL membership can become more valuable, more meaningful, and more useful for members or potential members under these circumstances. How do we understand and communicate the value of membership to others outside the library?

At the same time, I believe that a leadership role in ILA/ACRL means representing and advocating for its membership effectively outside of the organization as well as within it. Emerging opportunities for enhanced resource-sharing are under development in Iowa, and academic libraries can benefit from and contribute to these initiatives. ILA/ACRL is facilitating communication between our organization and other groups. Thank you for considering my candidacy for this position.

Kimberly Babcock Mashek (candidate for Secretary/Treasurer)

Biography: Kimberly Babcock Mashek is currently the Northeast Iowa District Library Resources Technician for Iowa Library Services. She received her B.A. in History, Political Science and International Relations from Wartburg College and her M.A. in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Previously to her current job she was the Director for Library Services at Kaplan University serving the following campus at various time during her tenure, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, and Mason City. She was also an Information Literacy Librarian at Wartburg College and served as the liaison for the sciences and the coordinator of virtual instruction. She has previously served on the ILA/ACRL board as a member at large and also on a variety of committees, currently she is a member of the Awards Committee. She is also a member of the Nominations Committee for ILA.

Statement: I am excited to have been nominated for the ILA/ACRL secretary position. ILA/ACRL is an organization near to my heart, as currently I don't work in an academic library but I am constantly advocating for academic libraries in their position of making college students life-long learners. The organization is a vital one, offering numerous opportunities for growth in the professions. As an officer, I would be diligent in my responsibilities and would make sure to listen to members voices and concerns and bring them up to other board members in a timely manner. I have enjoyed attending ILA/ACRL conferences and would be honored to serve as an officer.

Jennifer Sterling (candidate for Secretary/Treasurer)

Biography: Jennifer Sterling earned a BS in Education degree from Pittsburg State University in 1996 and an MA in Library Science from the University of Missouri in 1998. She began working at William Penn University as Reference Librarian in 1998. She took a short break to work in a public library and medical library and returned to Penn as Instructional Services Librarian in 2002. Jennifer has previously served on the Executive Board as Member at Large. She has also served on the Spring Conference Planning committee several times, including as Chair in 2012, the Awards committee, and is currently on the Newsletter committee.

Statement: I am pleased to accept the nomination of Secretary-Treasurer of ILA/ACRL. As an active member of the association I realize how important accurate record keeping is and I would strive to continue that tradition for our future. ILA/ACRL has been a very important part of my professional life. The professional development opportunities we have through our conferences are top notch. I also highly value the friendships and connections I have made by being an ILA/ACRL member. One of the strengths of Iowa academic libraries is our willingness to share and collaborate with one another. I would be honored to give back to the association by serving as Secretary-Treasurer.

Ellen Neuhaus (candidate for Member At-Large)

Biography: Ellen Neuhaus earned a Bachelors of Science in geology from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Arts in Teaching in Earth Science and a Masters in Librarianship from the University of South Carolina. Ellen serves as the Digital Collections Coordinator at Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa. She has been at Rod Library since August 1995 where she has held a variety of positions, including Interim Head of Access Services, MultiService Center Librarian, and Reference Librarian and Bibliographer. Ellen has been active in ILA/ACRL, serving as Vice President/President Elect, President, and Past President of the organization. She has also served on the Spring Conference Committee, Nominating Committee, Awards Committee, Membership Committee, Newsletter Committee, Directory Committee, and Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee. In addition, she has been active in the Iowa Library Association where she served as Vice President/President Elect, President, and Past President of the organization.

Statement: I am very excited to run for the ILA/ACRL At-Large position on the Executive Board. I have always looked for ways to support ILA/ACRL and believe that you gain so much more by staying active and serving on one of the many ILA/ACRL committees. I believe that ILA/ACRL serves as one of the platforms where Iowa academic librarians can share ideas and form collaborative initiatives. It brings together librarians from all types of academic libraries within the state and facilitates professional growth and collaboration among its members. It offers professional development and networking opportunities at the ILA/ACRL Spring Conference and at the the fall Iowa Library Association Annual Conference, conference scholarship opportunities for individuals new to the state, research awards, and marketing/advocacy awards. I believe that ILA/ACRL helps individuals and institutions adjust to the changing landscape of 21st century libraries by creating relevant opportunities for professional development, networking, and collaboration. I would like to continue to give back to the association by serving in the open At-Large position on the Executive Board.

Cara Stone (candidate for Member At-Large)

Biography: Cara B. Stone earned a BA in Music from Luther College in 2005 and an MLS from Indiana University in 2011, having focused on public services and instruction. Following an internship experience at University of Dubuque she started her library career as Faculty Development & Instruction Librarian at Grand View University in Des Moines. Cara has been active in ILA/ACRL since 2010, and has previously served on the Mentoring Committee (2011) and the Membership Committee (2012-13). She is currently on ILA/ACRL's Awards Committee, Electronic Communications Committee, and serves as Grand View's Campus Ambassador. Cara has also been a member of ILA's Intellectual Freedom Committee since 2013. Previously, she served as a member of the ALA NMRT Mentoring Committee (2013-14), member of the ALA NMRT Liaison Coordination & Support Committee (2012-13), and Chair of the ALA NMRT Mentoring Committee (2013-14). Cara also co-facilitates the IPAL Information Literacy Interest Group and the associated iLOVE Instruction blog.

Statement: As someone born and raised in Iowa, I have seen the impact our educational institutions have had on generations of Iowans. As a result, I greatly value our role as academic librarians and I am always excited to be involved with ILA/ACRL at any level; I am particularly honored to accept this nomination for At-Large Member. I greatly value the opportunities ILA/ACRL provides for collaborative and innovative efforts, problem-solving, and creativity. If elected, I would use my time to continue to work together to grow our impact as a membership. Particularly in lean times, I believe our greatest resource is the support we provide to each other. I hope to be an additional conduit for communication between the greater membership and the Executive Board as we all explore and share ideas, forge new partnerships, and innovate.

ILA/ACRL Sponsored Sessions for ILA Annual Conference October 2015

Pre-conference: Active Teaching and Learning: Applying the Information Literacy Framework

Wednesday, October 15th, 2015, 10:00am – 3:00pm

\$30 for members | \$40 for non-members

Jean Donham

Sara Scheib

Carrie Dunham LaGree

Susan Vega Garcia

Chris Neuhaus

Becky Canovan

Anne Marie Gruber

ACRL's new "Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education" is generating discussion as academic librarians begin to consider its implementations. This hands-on workshop will provide opportunities to analyze the Framework, to compare and contrast it with the ACRL Standards for Information Literacy, and to discuss how to begin implementing the Framework. Small group work and large group discussion will engage participants in practical application of the Framework. Participants are asked to bring an assignment for which information literacy instruction could be taught; this assignment will be used in workshop activities.

College Readiness: Building K-16 Information Literacy Foundations

Thursday, October 15th, 2015 11:05am – 11:55am

Ericka Raber, librarian liaison, University of Iowa

Denise Rehmke, Library Coordinator, Iowa City Community School District

Pam Rees, Director of Library and Information Resources, Grand View University

Librarians in schools and in higher education are deeply committed to the integration of information literacy skills into the instructional programs in their institutions. Being able to transition from high school to college and to successfully meet the research and writing challenges at each level require that students learn and practice skills, strategies and behaviors inherent in the information literacy process. This session will highlight collaborate efforts at the high school and college levels that have been implemented to improve information literacy instruction. The panel will also discuss a recent ILA proposal designed to foster continued collaboration between school and academic librarians. Participants will be invited to work in small groups to discuss future collaborations between high school and college librarians.

Collaborative Professional Development: Creating Your Own Opportunities

Friday, October 16th, 2015, 11:20am – 12:10pm

Amy Blevins, Clinical Education Librarian, Hardin Library University of Iowa

Mara Eggherman, Library Services Manager, Marshalltown Community College

Anne Marie Gruber, Assistant Director for Library Instruction and Public Services, University of Dubuque

Overwhelmed with the busy day-to-day at your library? Stuck in a rut doing what you usually do? Professional development to the rescue! Find out how librarians create their own opportunities that are cheap or (the magic word) free, in order to inspire or educate themselves! In the spirit of all things DIY, librarians who create their own opportunities to learn and improve their services, individually and collaboratively, will share some ideas applicable to all library types and sizes. Concepts discussed will include harnessing technology tools, taking advantage of association & vendor options, creating informal interest groups, and creating a professional development plan. Participants will also be invited to share their methods of DIY professional development.

Regents Universities Library News

University of Northern Iowa

Recent Hires

The University of Northern Iowa's Rod Library recently hired three faculty librarians: Katelyn Browne joins Rod Library as the Youth Services Librarian. Browne comes from the Capital City Public Charter School in Washington, DC where she served as High School Librarian and Technology Teacher. Browne worked at the school since 2011, previously as Middle/High School Librarian and as Lower School Librarian there.

Angela Cox joins Rod Library as an Instruction and Liaison Librarian. Cox began work at Rod Library in 2009 as a Library Assistant in the Technical Services Department. She transferred to Reference and Instructional Services in 2012. Cox recently completed her MLS degree from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

Anne Marie Gruber joins Rod Library as an Instruction and Liaison Librarian. Gruber comes from the University of Dubuque where she served as Assistant Director for Library Instruction & Public Services. Previously, she worked as the Reference & Instruction Librarian there from 2006 to 2008.

Katelyn Browne and Angela Cox started at the beginning of the fall semester and Anne Marie Gruber's start date is November 2, 2015. Rod Library welcomes Katelyn, Angela, and Anne Marie to the University of Northern Iowa!

Multimedia Production Space

In a few weeks LIB 222 will re-open as a new Multimedia Production space divided into a number of separate rooms. The rooms will include headphones, microphones, Macs for audio editing, and a MIDI keyboard.

Makerspace

The Rod Library Makerspace with an emphasis on crafts, textiles, and microelectronics will roll out this fall

Large Format Printer

A large format printer from another campus unit was recently acquired and we are exploring offering large format printing as a new service in the library.

Outreach Activities

The Rod Library participated in the UNI Now Program in late August which brought in over 1200 new first year and transfer students to Rod Library for a variety of mini-tours. We hosted a Bash in the Stacks during Welcome Week activities for approximately 600 students to check out the Rod Library, play games, get food, be loud and meet fellow students.

Submitted by Ellen Neuhaus

The University of Iowa

Science Fiction fans raise \$1,955 to support Hevelin Collection digitization
- <http://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/speccoll/2015/07/28/science-fiction-fans-raise-1955-to-support-hevelin-collection-digitization/>

Peter Balestrieri, Curator, Science Fiction and Popular Culture Collections, remembers "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and shares papers and artifacts held in the Special Collections.

News from Special Collections, including staff changes, events, acquisitions, social media: <http://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/speccoll/2015/08/28/news-from-special-collections-8282015/>

University of Iowa librarians commit to Open Access: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/collections/oa-statement/>

University of Iowa Libraries participating in CIC Shared Print Repository: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/collections/cic-shared-print-repository/>

University of Iowa Libraries finalizes its Strategic Plan for 2015-2018: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/about/strategic/>

New Staff

Jennifer Masada, Strategic Communications Manager
Catherine Hodge, Monograph and Cartographic Resources Cataloging Librarian
Melissa Moll, Music Cataloging Librarian
Amanda Xu, Metadata Analyst
Rob Shepard, GIS Specialist
Daniel Johnson, Digital Preservation Librarian
Amy Chen, Special Collections Instruction Librarian

Submitted by Amy Paulus

Private Academic Library News

University of Dubuque

The Library will hold a “Mo Willems Story Time” for preschoolers on Saturday, October 3. Becky Canovan and Diana Newman run this very popular preschool story hour program. On September 10-13, Jon Helmke, Assistant Director & Archivist, and Brian Hallstoos, Associate Professor of History, attended the first of three Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) workshops in Washington DC as part of a multi-year competitive CIC grant. They plan to create a digital archive about the African American experience at UD.

Becky Canovan, Reference & Instruction Librarian at UD and Cara Stone, Faculty Development and Instruction Librarian at Grand View University presented “The Information Literacy Constellation: How Do Your Stars Align?” at the Indiana University Libraries Information Literacy Colloquium in Kokomo on August 7.

Mary Anne Knepfel gave the 2015 University of Dubuque commencement address on May 16. It was entitled “Eager to Meet the Person I Am Going to Become.”

UD held the 3rd annual “Apex: The Celebration of Student Scholarship and Creativity” on April 28-30. MaryAnne Knefel, University Librarian, and Diana Newman, Office Manager, have helped lead this campus-wide program for the past three years.

Both Anne Marie Gruber, Assistant Director for Library Instruction and Public Services, and Nate Gruber, Acquisitions and Data Management Assistant, have resigned their positions at UD. Anne Marie has accepted a position as Instruction and Liaison Librarian at the Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa. Everyone at UD wishes Anne Marie, Nate, and their daughter the best wishes on their new journey.

Submitted by Mary Anne Knefel

Grand View University

Cara Stone, Faculty Development & Instruction Librarian, and Dan Chibnall, User Services & Instruction Design Librarian, traveled to the Indiana University Libraries Information Literacy Colloquium, held August 7 in Kokomo, IN, where Stone co-led a workshop with Becky Canovan (University of Dubuque): The Information Literacy Constellation: How Do Your Stars Align? Cara Stone and English faculty member Amy Getty have been invited to present at the Council of Independent Colleges' (CIC) Workshop on Information Fluency in English and American Language and Literature, to be held March 10-12, 2016, in Louisville, KY.

Around campus there has been much excitement regarding the newly completed Jensen Bridge Skywalk and Student Center. The Jensen Bridge connects the new Student Center to the Rasmussen Center, extending across busy East 14th Street. On May 7th at 1:00 a.m. a celebration was held as the two halves of the structure were connected, with much work continuing through the summer to enclose and put the finishing touches on the Jensen Bridge. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the skywalk will be held Thursday, September 17. In addition, the recently-completed Student Center now serves as a central hub for campus, not only housing the Bookstore, Dining Services, Student Support Services, Academic Advising and Enrichment, Campus Services, Speech & Theatre programs, and Student Life, but also became a new home for the Communications Department, and expanded GV's offerings by adding additional event hosting spaces. We are also excited about the new programs connecting Grand View with international partnerships in China and Denmark, creating opportunities for student and faculty exchanges.

Kirkwood Community College

Kirkwood Community College's Iowa City Campus received a \$10,000 grant from the NEH and ALA, Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, in support of programming that highlights Latino American history and culture. Their programming will focus on recent history of Latina/os in the Midwest, starting off with a 2-day series of films and discussions with documentary film director

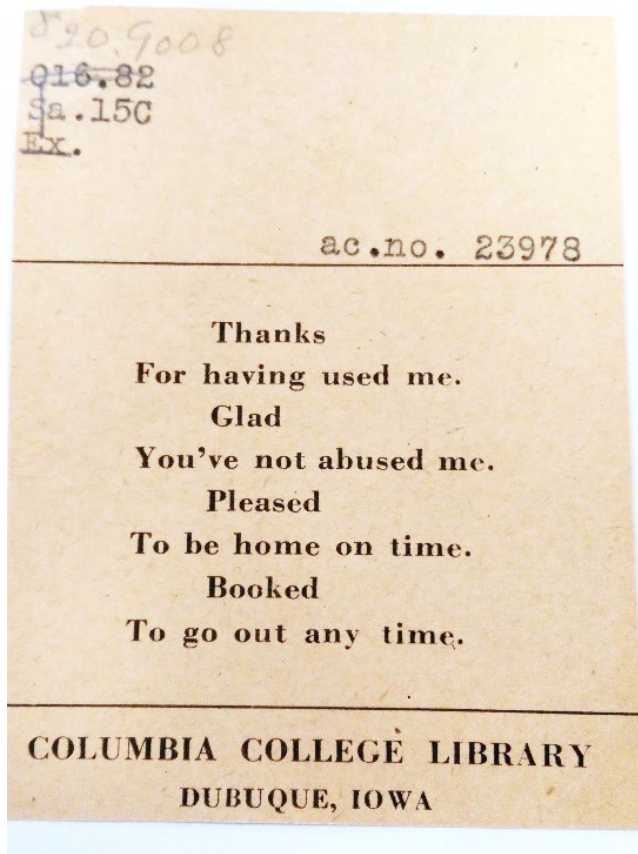
Luis Argueta. They're also very excited to use part of the grant funds to jump start a new oral history archives and digital humanities project especially geared to community college faculty and students. Hopefully this will soon be the subject of another newsletter blurb! For more information on the grant programming see: <http://guides.kirkwood.edu/la500>.

Loras College

Weeding Continues

We weeded again this summer – our entire 3rd floor and a portion of 4th floor. These floors included two of the toughest sections for us to weed – American and British Literature. But we feel we did a pretty good job. This time around, we weeded 13,200 books to go along with the 14,590 that we weeded in the summer of 2014. One more summer and we'll make it through the entire collection – picking the low-hanging fruit – those things that haven't circulated for over 20 years and are older than 1990. This is no small feat – just a reminder – we have well over 300,000 books in our collection!

We found lots of interesting things while we were doing this. Donations often made some sections unintentionally lopsided; Sears gave out grants to buy books in the 60s and we evidently received a number of them; many books were checked out when we first got them, but then were never looked at again; we found a cute little poem on some of the older book pockets:



And we also found a number of property stamps that matched the changing times and names of the college:



Finally, I would highly recommend that everyone go out in the stacks and weed in context. It's a great learning experience – much more effective than trying to just weed from a list of books. We started with the list but moved to the stacks to actually evaluate the list. It's time consuming, but again, worth it.

Emergency Plan

Heidi Pettitt, Special Collections and Technical Services Librarian attended ACRL in Portland this spring and went to a great session about disaster/emergency plans. So this summer, she and Kristen Smith, E-Resources & Research Services Librarian, updated our disaster plan. Our old plan had different people named for specific tasks but if that person wasn't here, then we weren't always sure who was supposed to do what. Our new plan has a self-appointed point person who delegates tasks based upon a checklist depending upon the emergency and the available staff. We sure hope this works! I've been at Loras for 11 years now and we've had the pipes break 4 times – so far that's the extent of our "emergencies".

February 15, 2008 in the stacks



The shelves that were affected.



One of our drying areas.

January 14, 2010 in the stacks



Water running down in the background.



The water spread across the library.

Hawkeye Community College

The Hawkeye Community College Library is migrating to Alma and Primo (ExLibris) along with the other academic libraries of the Cedar Valley Library Consortium (UNI, Wartburg College and Allen College). Migration work will begin in earnest in November with a go live date tentatively slated for mid-late May 2016.

Sarah Quin began her new job as Hawkeye Community College's Reference, Instruction and Digital Services Librarian in August; she replaces Judy Mitchell who retired June 30th. Sarah has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Michigan, a Master of Library Science from Wayne State University and is endorsed in Iowa and South Carolina to teach K-12 media and 7-12 math and physics. She is also certified as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Level 1 librarian and has worked on the IB accreditation process. Sarah has a broad background, working at different types of libraries. She began her library career working as a library intern at the Ford Motor Co. Engineering Research Library while in graduate school. Sarah then served five years as a public services librarian at Concordia College (Michigan), 10 years as a reference

and instruction librarian at Washtenaw Community College before relocating to South Carolina, where she worked for six years as a high school media specialist. Sarah is excited to return to higher education with her new job at Hawkeye Community College.

Central College

Geisler Library has been exceptionally busy these last few months! During the summer we began a space reclamation project which opens up almost 2,000 sq. ft. on the library's main floor for expanded and updated study and collaboration spaces. This project includes integrating tutoring services and the writing program into the physical library. We look forward to building upon the collaborations already in place between tutoring, writing, and the library's instruction program through this move. Stay tuned for pictures as our new spaces take shape.

As Central College's Integrated Learning initiative moves into the implementation phase, Integrated Learning Librarian Mary Anderson took on the challenge of training the entire incoming class of students (plus their RAs and other student leaders) to use the new electronic portfolio system in just under two weeks! Congratulations to Mary for accomplishing this demanding task and leading the students in this new educational initiative.

Library Director Beth McMahon will present with Central College Director of Writing Dr. Susan Pagnac at the International Writing Center Association conference in October, 2015. They will present as part of the the panel discussion "(R)evolution through Collaborations: Interdisciplinary Connections of Writing Centers to Increase Student Engagement."

Geisler Library welcomes our new Student Intern Jasmine Fugate. Jasmine will gain experience in many different parts of the library and she prepares to enter an MLIS program after graduation from Central College. We also welcome back our Reference Assistant Mackenzie Uhlenhopp, who is now also a graduate student in Music Therapy at the University of Iowa.

Lastly, Geisler Library has committed to converting from III Millenium to OCLC World Share. Technical Services Librarian Kyle Winward is already working hard preparing the way for this exciting transition, slated to go live in May 2016.

Special Libraries News

Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

BARD: Braille and Audio Reading Download

BARD, the Braille and Audio Reading Download from the National Library Service, is a web-based service that provides access to thousands of special-format books, magazines, and music-scores to library patrons. BARD now has both iOS and Android free apps available. The BARD

Mobile app enables users to download audio books and audio magazines directly to their iOS and Android devices. The iOS app also allows users to download and read electronic braille.

New Braille Code

On January 4, 2016, the National Library Service (NLS) will implement the Unified English Braille (UEB) code, which is the first extensive change to braille code since the 1930's. The new code uses the same six dot cell pattern, but drops some contractions, uses different spacing rules, and allows for translating a wider array of symbols. UEB brings Braille into the computer age. It will be especially beneficial to students and other users of technology, as it will help improve translations from print to Braille and Braille to print. NLS has already acquired over 90 electronic titles in UEB and has posted them onto BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download). Existing books in the current braille code (English Braille American Edition) will remain in the NLS braille collection and will still be available to patrons. The Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will also be adding UEB titles to their collection as well.

Robert Becker Memorial Library at Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, IA

Seed Savers Exchange's Robert Becker Memorial Library hosted the 47th Annual Meeting the national Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) June 16-20. A total of 55 CBHL members and guests from diverse botanical and horticultural libraries across the U.S. and Canada gathered in Decorah to explore the topic "Taste, Tradition and Beauty in the Edible Landscape." Speakers and presenters included several staff and board members of Seed Savers Exchange, Luther College Sustainability Coordinator Maren Beard, Luther College President Paula Carlson, and individual CBHL members. The Council presented its prestigious CBHL Annual Literature Award to the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) for the 2015 publication *Flora Illustrata*, co-edited by NYBG's LuEsther Mertz Library Director Susan Fraser and Vanessa Bezemer Sellers. Fraser was present at the conference to accept the award.



CBHL 2015 Annual Literature Award Committee members with award winner Susan Fraser, co-editor and Library Director of the New York Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library. During the organization's business meeting, SSE Librarian Bill Musser was elected to the Board of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries as the organization's Treasurer, a five-year term.

Submitted by Bill Musser